

REMARKS

Claims 13-15, 20, 21, 23, and 27 are rejected. Claim 13 is an independent method claim.

Applicant has amended the drawings and the specification to provide reference numerals for elements contained within the claim. For example, “contact” is now labeled as reference numeral 14, and Figures 1 and 6 have been amended accordingly. The contact is referred to on page 2, lines 20-23 and other locations throughout the specification. The “opening” is now reference numeral 15. Figure 7 has been amended to include reference numeral 15, and the opening is referred to on page 3, lines 23-26 and lines 35-37, and page 4, lines 7-9.

All of the pending claims were rejected under §103 as being obvious over Hagel in view of McCooey. The examiner states that the base reference, Hagel, fails to disclose providing the foam pressure recited in all of the claims. The examiner argues that the missing element is disclosed by McCooey and that the motivation to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Hagel with McCooey would be for the purpose of sealing to protect from the environment.

The combination of Hagel and McCooey is improper for three reasons. First, the threaded engagement of the shell 1 and cap 3 provide the pressure in Hagel. There is no benefit in Hagel to provide foam pressure since the pressure is already provided by the shell and cap. As a result, one of ordinary skill in the art would not modify Hagel. Second, there is no teaching in the references as to where one would put the foam in Hagel. Hagel teaches a self-contained connector. There is no location to place the foam, and the foam cannot replace the cap and shell because there is no surrounding structure taught against which the foam may act to exert the pressure. Third, McCooey’s teachings is directed to eliminating a soft spot in the region of an instrument panel

airbag door at the location of foam entry holes in which foam is injected during the IP forming process. Significantly, there are no wires or wire connectors discussed or taught in McCooey. What, then, is the teaching that would motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to combine McCooey with Hagel?. The examiner's stated motivation of "sealing to protect from the environment" is not taught by McCooey as argued, and even if it was, the teachings of McCooey are not even remotely related to the teachings of Hagel.

For the above reasons, the combination argued by the examiner is improper and the rejection must be withdrawn.

Applicant believes that no additional fees are necessary, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

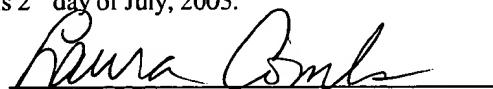
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CERTIFICATE OF MAIL

I hereby certify that the enclosed Response is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 2nd day of July, 2003.


Laura Combs